

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 20936-14355

Title: HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AUGMENTATION FORCES, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

Operation/Exercise Name: RESTORE HOPE

Observed: 20 Feb 1993

Originator: 15TH MEU

POC: COL NEWBOLD Commercial: (873)151-3744 DSN: 000011

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Current Doctrine, Training, Equipment, and supplies for humanitarian operations are inadequate for Forward Deployed Forces.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

Operation Restore Hope made extensive of specialized personnel, equipment, and supplies to interact with the civilian population. This humanitarian operation represented the type of mission the Marine Corps can expect to undertake in future. Most of the civil affairs actions taken by the 15th MEU during Restore Hope were done spontaneously in reaction to an obvious need, and they paid tremendous dividends; however, many of the methods and ideas used had to be invented because specialized personnel, equipment, and supplies are not inherent to the MEU. Changes must be implemented that give the MEU fundamental Civil Affairs/Civil-Military operations capabilities.

Personnel - a Civil-Military Liaison Element, organized to win "hearts and minds," reduce casualties, gain intelligence, and lessen friction in working with the local population, was identified as a vital requirement early during Restore Hope. A Civil-Military Operations Center (CMOC) was established to fill this need. While the CMOC provided a valuable service, this organization could have better served the forces had they been formed and trained as a standing unit. Current Marine Corps doctrine does not address the missions or capabilities of such an organization.

Equipment - During Operation Restore Hope, potential firefights were avoided, lives saved, and missions accomplished without loss of life due to the extensive use of airborne, vehicle-mounted, and man-packed loudspeaker systems. Broadcasts,

conducted in support of operations, served to control vast crowds of hungry somalis, encourage the local populace to cooperate, and relay other messages intended to reduce friction.

Supplies - in an effort to continue to win "hearts and minds," medical and dental programs, civic action programs and community relations operations were conducted. These programs were thrown together with limited surplus medical supplies, administrative items, and available class IV.

Airlift support - during operations in Somalia, several groups and individual citizens in the U.S. Expressed a desire to donate items to the Somali people. All of these items, such as school supplies, clothing, health and comfort items, and toys could have a significant, positive impact on civil-military affairs; however, no USMC policy existed regarding space available airlift for these donated items.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

Specialized personnel, equipment, and supplies are invaluable in humanitarian operations; they can save lives, reduce overall military effort, and aid in long-term stability.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

(A) That HQMC (PP&O) direct formation, within each MEF, of crisis response modules tailored to civil-military operations expected in all low intensity conflict.

(B) That MCCDC incorporate education in the appropriate schools in the skills and equipment used, and lessons learned from Operation Restore Hope and similar operations (Provide Comfort, Sea Angel, and others).

9. (U) COMMENTS:

PP&O provides the following comments:

a. The MCLLS report recommends that each MEF be directed to form crisis response modules tailored to civil-military operations expected in all low intensity conflicts.

b. The Plans Division concurs with the stated need of having specialized personnel, equipment, and supplies inherent within each MEU for humanitarian operations. These assets can enhance any humanitarian relief effort.

c. The Marine Corps Capabilities Plan (MCP) states that "... in conjunction with the FMF, MCCDC is responsible for developing operational concepts, assessing operational capabilities, and determining operational requirements." It also directs "Fleet Marine Force commanders to prepare and draft modules for potential crises and adaptive planning. Unified commanders and FMF commanders must coordinate to determine which modules are of potential use and discuss the preparation of additional modules which could fill a planning void."

d. The MCP allows Marine planners to select and tailor a MAGTF/force module for any OPLAN/scenario from standard or previously tailored force modules; estimate the gross sustainment to support that module; estimate lift requirements; and transmit TPFDD to JOPES electronically. The force commanders will flesh out force modules using the MAGTF II/MDSS II development planning and execution system.

T&E provides the following comments:

a. The MCLLS recommends that the Marine Corps University (MCU) incorporate education in the appropriate schools in the skills and equipment used, and lessons learned from Operation Restore Hope and similar operations.

b. MCU concurs that lessons learned from current operations should be incorporated into appropriate school curriculums consistent with time constraints and competing requirements. Each school dedicates time to the study of low-intensity conflict with emphasis on the peculiarities of Operations like Restore Hope, Provide Comfort, Sea Angel, and Fiery Vigil. A number of briefings and studies on Operation Restore Hope have been conducted by the appropriate schools to include seminars by BGen Pace, Dep CG MARFOR Somalia, a CENTCOM staff briefing at McDill AFB, attendance of the LFTCLant Rapid Response Planning Workshop and instruction on the Law of War.

c. As was noted in this MCLL, the Marine Corps has little doctrine in the area of civil-military operations, therefore the MCU is reluctant to present a comprehensive package until definitive Marine Corps doctrine exists.

OPR: WDID

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